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AEC Denies Politics In A-Detection Error

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The Atomic Energy Commission said last night it had "no intention" of distorting scientific facts "for political purposes" when it released wrong data about detection of a nuclear explosion.

Acting AEC chairman Willard F. Libby made the statement in a letter to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.). Humphrey said earlier the AEC had given the impression "someone" is using scientific facts "to prove a political point" about detection of nuclear tests.

He referred to a correction issued by the AEC Monday to a background statement prepared for newsmen who visited the Nevada proving ground on March 10.

produced by the deep underground shot of last Sept. 19 were recorded by instruments at a maximum distance of 250 miles.

The correction said the shock had been picked up by seismological stations about 2320 miles away in Alaska.

Humphrey connected the AEC statement and correction with the controversy over whether an atomic power could stage undetectable underground tests and thus cheat on a nuclear-test ban agreement.

Libby wrote Humphrey: "Let me assure you that the error was entirely inadvertent and was not a deliberate one. There was no intention and no